

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting date/time: April 28, 2021/ 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Zoom Online Platform

Key contacts:

- Matt Parker, County Natural Resources Specialist, mparker@co.siskiyou.ca.us 530.842.8019
- Katie Duncan, Stantec Consulting – Facilitator. katie.duncan@stantec.com 916-418-8245
- Laura Foglia PhD, U.C. Davis Technical Team Lead, lfoglia@ucdavis.edu 530.219.5692

MEETING RECAP

- **Approval of Past Meeting Summary.** The committee approved its March meeting summary for posting on the Siskiyou County SGMA website.
- **Public Comment:** Provided comments captured below.
- **District Staff and Other Announcements:** Matt Parker provided an update regarding GSP schedule. Pat Vellines provide DWR resource updates. Thomas Harter indicated UC Davis is offering a groundwater course to the public.
- **Presentation on Proposed SMCs, PMAs, and Draft Chapters 3 & 4:** The facilitator provided a high-level overview of the GSP development process and approach to ensure compliance. The Technical Team reviewed proposed thresholds for the groundwater level and interconnected surface water sustainable management criteria as well as model simulations.
- **Discussion on Proposed SMCs, PMAs, and Draft Chapters 3 & 4:** The Advisory Committee and the public participants discussed the proposed sustainable management criteria, projects and management actions, and other chapter 3 and 4 content providing feedback and comments.
- SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Status/Deadline</i>
Coordinate PMA ad hoc Meeting	Facilitator	May
Follow up with Kevin DeLano on cannabis water usage and development of additional scenarios	Technical Team	On-going
Advisory Committee and Public to review draft chapters 3 and 4.	Advisory Committee and Public	May

Next Meeting: May 26, 2021/ 3:00 – 6:00 pm. Due to current circumstances surrounding COVID -19 the meeting will again be held online with Zoom technology.

View [Siskiyou County's groundwater website](#) for posted meeting materials.

MEETING SUMMARY

Call to Order, Agenda Review and New Online Meeting Platform

The Facilitator thanked all for joining, reviewed the virtual meeting platform procedures, indicated that quorum had been reached and called the meeting to order. She then reviewed the meeting agenda.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

Review of Past Meeting Summary and Review Action Items

The Facilitator indicated a change to the meeting summary requested by Justin Sandahl. Gregg Werner requested another statement be changed. The Facilitator obtained approval to post the meeting summary with requested revisions to the county's SGMA website. The Facilitator then provided a review of action items, which are being addressed by both County staff and the Technical Team. She thanked all for their comments on the GSP material.

Public Comment Period

Ginger Sammito provided comments on water use, groundwater level trends, and well classification in Shasta Valley. She suggested the project team closely look at and consider refining the definition and use of "reasonable" in the plan. She asked for a quantitative upper bound be established for pumping and water use so that all will be aware of the operating goals. Ginger provided a supplemental handout that was shown on screen and is included at the end of these meeting notes for reference. *As a note: The information included in the provided handout was collected and compiled by Ginger. The SGMA Technical Team did not develop, review, or confirm the numbers provided.*

A member of the public voiced concern regarding trees that were dying due to excessive pumping. She also indicated a sulfur smell in an area of Shasta Valley.

District Staff Updates and Other Announcements

Matt Parker provided an update on GSP schedule. The schedule shows the full public draft of the GSP to be approved in the summer. November is the target to officially adopt the GSP.

Pat Vellines provided DWR updates:

- DWR is currently assessing GSPs for critically overdrafted basins and are hopeful to have basins with single GSPs reviewed by late May. Reviews will be released to the public.
- Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys will be flown in November in Siskiyou County.
- Prop 68 grant applications for non-critically overdrafted basins will be available Spring of 2022. Eligible proposed projects should be included in the GSP. Projects outside of the basin but within the watershed may be eligible for IRWM funding.
- Pat is currently tracking opportunities for funding related to drought conditions. If you have a dry well report it to My Dry Water Supply webpage. ([Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System \(ca.gov\)](#))
- The public comment period for Bulletin 118 closed on April 26th. There is an online video if you are interested in learning more. ([California's Groundwater \(Bulletin 118\)](#))

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

- There is an upcoming California Financing Coordinating Committee funding fair on May 27th 8-11 online, where you can learn more about available grants, loans, and bond financing for infrastructure projects. (www.cfcc.ca.gov)

Thomas Harter indicated a groundwater short course opportunity through the University of California.

Presentation on Proposed SMCs, PMAs, and Draft Chapters 3 & 4

The Facilitator provided overview on the GSP development implementation timeline, key GSP components, and reviewed the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) monitoring and compliance approach.

Cab Esposito of the Technical Team presented the proposed minimum threshold (MT), action triggers (AT), and measurable objective (MO) for the groundwater level SMC. Groundwater level SMC metrics based on Fall annual-low levels. Two consecutive years of not meeting the MO, would trigger PMA implementation. Cab showed a map of the representative monitoring network specific to the groundwater level SMC.

Grant Johnson asked whether the SMCs are designed to prevent undesirable results. The Technical Team indicated that the SMCs were designed to avoid undesirable results which, in this case, would be a certain level of well outages not to be exceeded.

Ethan Brown (Shasta RCD) gave context on seasonal differences in groundwater levels and how seasonal groundwater fluctuations are not always captured in spring or fall measurements. He asked how this had been incorporated into the SMC metrics and definition. The Technical Team indicated that the buffer allows for some uncertainty in the data. Ethan asked that the definition be reviewed in the 5-year update for possible update with additional data.

Grant Johnson asked that a management action to increase the use of meters and other monitoring equipment in the basin be written into the plan to allow for future revision when additional data is available.

The Technical Team reviewed the interconnected surface water SMC definition and metrics. The Technical Team acknowledged that with the collection of additional data this SMC definition would be modified and refined with future plan updates.

Grant Johnson commented that the terms “baseflow” and “streamflow” should be clearly and separately defined in the plan.

Gregg Werner asked for alternative methods of measurement for monitoring interconnected surface water be considered and included in the plan to help validate model results. The Technical Team suggested that current work proceed while the Technical Team and Advisory Committee work to define a procedure for incorporation of additional methods of interconnected surface water measurement into the SMC definition, because setting SMC’s for

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

locations without historical data is difficult therefore its important to have in the plan a process to develop data for potential future monitoring locations

Blair Hart seconded Gregg's comment in including additional methods of measurement and described the challenges of measuring or ensuring flow in the river without fully understanding the extent of legal accessibility and all current diversions.

Ethan Brown asked for clarification on calculation methodology and whether the described thresholds meet other regulations. The Technical Team indicated that this could not be confirmed due to data gaps. Ethan also commented on the monitoring network and suggested the addition of another well and that the valley be split into management areas.

Blair seconded Ethan's comment on incorporation of an additional well and managing the SMCs by management areas.

Matt Parker asked for additional discussion on Blaire's comment regarding the SGMA plan and water rights. Blair indicated the water master is legally obligated to give water away that flows in streams.

Leah Easley indicated in the chat the need to consider the amount of flow adjudicated users lose annually due to groundwater use and its need to be restored as it is an undesirable result clearly stated in SGMA.

Gregg Werner indicated that SGMA allows for groundwater management via the six sustainable indicators and defined management criteria. He further stipulated that since Shasta Valley is not currently in a situation of overdraft and SGMA gives the GSA the ability to manage water such that current levels are maintained.

Tristan Allan offered that the purpose is sustainability, and the GSA is required to manage groundwater, but groundwater use impacts the availability of surface water.

Justin Holmes asked that clarification be provided regarding available information. He indicated that maximum flexibility should be built into the plan. Groundwater rules and polices may counter surface water rules and policies. He indicated that the GSA should move forward preserving maximum flexibility.

Lisa Faris indicated that new wells will also impact this changing water availability.

John Tannaci indicated that he believed the Technical Team had adequately considered these concerns and that 5-year updates will modify the plan as appropriate.

Blair Hart commented that riparian use is currently unregulated. He indicated that a water audit will most likely be needed in the basin.

Laura Foglia explained that the GSP will clearly describe the current data gaps and that the legal team will also be consulted to develop this language.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

The Technical Team presented model scenarios that looked at changes in water use and pumping in Shasta Valley.

Blair Hart asked for clarification on methodology and how the basin's subsurface geology and flow dynamics is considered. The Technical Team indicated that fractured basalt would not be the medium of modeling, instead it is currently being modeled as a porous media. The more accurate geology would be incorporated in the 5-year update.

Gregg Werner asked for clarification regarding total changes in baseflow with additional pumping. The Technical Team indicated that they would be exploring long term impacts of pumping on outflow.

Justin Holmes indicated that the model supports his experience with new well impact on older wells.

Water master district representative asked for context regarding received reports and the amount of impact indicated in the presentation due to changes in pumping. The Technical Team indicated that the simulations show trends and potential impacts. The representative indicated that they are concerned with impact of current pumping.

Leah Easley asked for the data that supports the 15.5 thousand acre-feet of simulated increased pumping. Matt Parker indicated 15.5 thousand acre-feet is based on additional pumping of water for illegal cannabis; estimates of total plants in the area from the Sheriff's office. The Technical Team further explained that the 15.5 TAF was specifically to represent additional pumping; it did not include climate changes.

A member of the Public asked about the relationship between pumping and recharge back into the ground. The Technical Team explained that return flows or recharge of excess irrigation water was not included in the model.

Justin Holmes commented that the modeled scenarios are characteristic of extreme events. He asked for comment on how these numbers might be verified and discussion on how all entities in the basin will be held accountable for water usage.

Grant Johnson asked for clarification on illegal cannabis vs. production of industrial hemp and asked whether the discussion is appropriate with regard to SGMA regulation. Illegal cannabis as discussed and simulated is considered separate from the cultivation of legal hemp. The Technical Team indicated they wanted to present a holistic picture of water usage in the basin.

Tristan Allen indicated that the discussion was pertinent due to the fact that groundwater must remain at sustainable levels so those within the basin utilizing water can continue to do so.

Blair Hart indicated that the cost incurred to prosecute illegal water users is extreme.

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

Kevin DeLano indicated that he would bring the matter to the attention of the State Water Resources Control Board. Kevin DeLano indicated that SWRCB can assist if help quantifying the water demand for illegal cannabis use is needed.

A member asked whether base groundwater levels are still changing due to ongoing change in climatic and/or anthropogenic factors and whether equilibrium had been reached. The Technical Team answered that they do not currently have resolution on the answer to the question.

Gregg Werner asked for clarification on illegal pumping.

Discussion on Proposed SMCs, PMAs, and Draft Chapters 3 & 4

The Facilitator explained that the Technical Team is interested in organizing ad hoc group to specifically discuss potential projects and management actions in Shasta Valley. Discussion was opened up regarding PMAs included in draft chapter 4.

Laura Foglia gave an overview of the goals of PMAs in the GSP and the need to further define them so that the GSA can easily implement projects and management actions and apply for available and eligible funding.

John Tannaci asked whether alternative crops or low-ET crops are included in the plan. Justin Holmes asked for the clarification of in-lieu recharge and offered to provide feedback as he has experience with the action.

Ethan Brown asked whether cloud seeding could be included in PMAs. The Technical Team indicated that they had no information that indicated this was a viable option.

The Facilitator included chat conversations into the meeting record; Ginger had suggested a per acre cap on water usage.

The Facilitator asked for volunteers for the Shasta Valley PMA ad hoc. An ad hoc group must be representative of the advisory committee member composition. The group could have a maximum of five volunteers. Grant Johnson, Blair Hart, John Tannaci, Tristan Allen, and Lisa Faris volunteered to participate. Justin Holmes would be considered an alternate.

Meeting Adjourns

The Facilitator reviewed action items. Matt Parker provided closing comments and thanked all for their participation and comments.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Advisory Committee Members

John Tannaci, Residential

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

Justin Holmes, Edson-Foulke Ditch Company
Blair Hart, Private Pumper
Lisa Faris, Big Springs Irrigation District
Steve Mains, Grenada Irrigation District
Tristan Allen, Montague Water Conservation District
Gregg Werner, Environmental/Conservation
Robert Moser, Municipal/City (Lake Shastina Community District)
Grant Johnson, Karuk Tribe

Absent Committee Members

Pete Scala, Private Pumper
Justin Sandahl, Shasta River Waters Users Association

District Staff/Siskiyou County Staff

Matt Parker, County of Siskiyou Natural Resources Specialist
Natalie Reed, Siskiyou County Assistant County Counsel

GSA Board

Supervisor Michael Kobseff

Technical Team

Dr. Laura Foglia, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Dr. Thomas Harter, UC Davis
Cab Esposito, UC Davis/Larry Walker Associates
Brad Gooch, Larry Walker Associates
Katrina Arredondo, Larry Walker Associates

Agency Staff

Bryan McFaddin, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Eli Scott, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Janae Scruggs, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pat Vellines, Department of Water Resources
Chris Watt, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Shari Whitmore, National Marine Fisheries Service
Kevin Delano, State Water Resources Control Board
Dan Worth, State Water Resources Control Board
Tina Bartlett, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Facilitator

Katie Duncan, Stantec
Elizabeth Simon, Stantec

Members of the public

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

Angelina Cook
Ayn Perry, Shasta RCD
Brandy Caporaso, Shasta RCD
Dave Webb
Linda Webb
Nick Joslin
Theo Whitcomb
Ginger Sammito
Ethan Brown, Shasta RCD
Giuliano Carneiro Galdi, UC Cooperative Extension
Heather Wood, NRCS
John Clements
Leah Easley, Watermaster District
Nick Joslin
Rod Dowse, Shasta RCD

**Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Meeting
MEETING SUMMARY**

Attach ginger's comments